

CBJFC REGISTRATIONS & TEAM SELECTION POLICY



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Registrations and Team Selection policy is to clarify the team selection process and ensure all registered players of the Caulfield Bears JFC are treated fairly. The Club requires our Coaches (including assistants) and/or Team Managers to adhere to the following guidelines as far as practicable.

POLICY

In all age groups, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment of the sport for all players, officials and supporters. Additional goals are the:

- Acquisition of football skills
- Nurturing of physical and emotional development
- Education on the culture of the sport of Australian rules football, in particular junior sport.
- Promote the sport of Australian football to junior-age people within our local community
- Encourage and develop good sporting behaviour
- Improve general fitness
- Respect for officials, opposition players and supporters
- Promotion of the virtues of fair play and disciplined play

Our Club typically fields teams in all age groups from U8 to U17 in the South Metro Junior Football League. Each age group (U8–U10; U11–U12; U13–U17) has different needs in terms of football development. Accordingly, the approach to coaching, training, game day and team selection will differ for each age group.

The Caulfield Bears JFC retains an absolute discretion to place players within a particular team in an age group.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations will be invited during a period specified by the Committee. Registrations are to be made online or during the Club Registration Day and will not be considered complete until payment is received.

Players will not be allocated into teams at Registration, this will happen on team allocation day as determined by the Committee.

Registrations received after the team allocation date are subject to team availability and will be assessed on a case by case basis, determined by team numbers, not player ability.

TEAM SELECTION – START OF SEASON

Players will be allocated into teams by a 'Team Selection Sub Committee' on a set date before the start of the season.

If more than one team is formed in a particular age group, then players will be allocated based on the following criteria:

- Even numbers across teams
- Balance of abilities to ensure competitiveness across the teams
- Players in their correct age groups — unless formal request (in writing) is received from a player wishing to play outside of their age group
- Consideration of school year group
- Prior team history
- School/friendship groups (taken from registration form)

The CBJFC Committee's Policy on grading teams based on football ability is that we do not do this before U13s. If the Club has more than one team in the same age group from U13s and above, then grading based on football ability may occur, and the Football Operations and Team Selection Sub Committee will be involved in selecting the graded teams.

Depending on the number of registrations received, it may be necessary to form a composite team across two adjacent age groups. It is the preference of the Caulfield Bears JFC to create a blended team, rather than turning players away or fielding teams that will necessitate rostering players to the sidelines due to large numbers.

If a composite team is formed, due consideration will be made to the age and maturity of the player as well as their ability to play in the older age group. Players will not be asked to play in an older age group without the prior consent of their parent(s).

CBJFC REGISTRATIONS & TEAM SELECTION POLICY



DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any disputes regarding team allocations or game day issues must be sent to the Head of Football Operations in writing for consideration. The Head of football operations will address the dispute, liaise with the applicable coaches and if necessary, discussions will be carried out with the President / Vice-President to provide a final decision.

TEAM SELECTION – DURING THE SEASON

U8-U10

All players in this age group are to be given the opportunity of equal playing time and equal time in the three-zoned positions of 'forward', 'mid-field', 'back', irrespective of ability or skill or any other factor.

U11-U12

All players in this age group are to be given the opportunity of fair and reasonable playing time irrespective of ability or skill or any other factor. However, attendance and attitude at training sessions and games will also possibly influence game time and the expectations of all players is to attend training and show respect to the coaching department at all times. The coaches will have absolute discretion on game day selection and should there be any issues, a parent is to follow dispute resolution policy.

U13-U17

All players will be expected to gain a level of fitness as required to play in these age levels. Fitness will have an influence on game time as will attendance and attitude at training sessions. Attendance and a good attitude level at training sessions will receive preferential consideration.

Players not training and or arriving late for training and/or match day may disadvantage their eligibility for selection or match time quota. If any player (across all teams) breaches the Club's policies, as outlined in the Club's Information Booklet, the Coach and/or Committee may impose an appropriate penalty for such a breach. Any penalty must be consistently applied to all players who breach Club policy, irrespective of ability, skill or any other factor. The coaches will have absolute discretion on game day selection and should there be any issues, a parent is to follow dispute resolution policy.

TEAM SELECTION – PLAYING UP

On occasions, players may be asked to play in a different team if the numbers in another team are inadequate due to injury, illness, holidays etc. In these instances, a player may play an additional game, providing the following criteria are met:

- SMJFL By-Laws are followed
- Coaches must first seek players from a team that is one age group below them. If nobody is available to play, then the next age group down may be selected
- If a Team in the same age group, or one age group below has a bye for the round in question, then players from this group are to be given priority
- A player will only be allowed to play for a different team if
 - a) Their team game occurs first and
 - b) Their own Coach gives permission
- Playing up should be rotated fairly, giving all interested players the opportunity to experience a game in a higher age group
- An underage player may not replace a team member on the basis of ability